Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-22. Please amend Claims 23, 25 and 29-31. Please add new Claims 35-42. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method of treating a condition in a patient characterized by activation of an inflammatory cytokine cascade comprising administering to said patient a composition comprising an antibody that binds to an HMGB polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof and an agent that inhibits TNF biological activity, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of infliximab, etanercept, adalimumab, CDP870, CDP571, Lenercept, and Thalidomide.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 23, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein said ~~(HMGB)~~ HMGB polypeptide is a mammalian HMGB polypeptide.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein said HMGB polypeptide is an HMGB1 polypeptide.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein said HMGB1 polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein said HMGB1 polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein said ~~biologically active HMGB fragment is an~~ HMGB polypeptide or biologically active fragment thereof is a HMGB B box or [[a]] biologically active fragment thereof.

30. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 29, wherein said ~~HMGB1 B box~~ HMGB B box or biologically active fragment thereof consists of SEQ ID NO:5.

31. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 30, wherein said ~~HMGB1 B box biologically active fragment~~ HMGB B box or biologically active fragment thereof consists of SEQ ID NO:23.

32. (Original) The method of Claim 23, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 23, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

34. (Original) The method of Claim 23, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of sepsis, allograft rejection, rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, lupus, adult respiratory distress syndrome, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, psoriasis, pancreatitis, peritonitis, burns, myocardial ischemia, organic ischemia, reperfusion ischemia, Behcet's disease, graft versus host disease, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, multiple sclerosis, and cachexia.

35. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said condition is sepsis.

36. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said condition is rheumatoid arthritis.

37. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said antibody is a human antibody.

38. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said antibody is a humanized antibody.

39. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said antibody is a chimeric antibody.

40. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said antibody is a single chain antibody.

41. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said antibody is an antigen-binding fragment.

42. (New) The method of Claim 41, wherein said antigen-binding fragment is selected from the group consisting of an F(v) fragment, and F(ab) fragment, an F(ab') fragment and an $F(ab')_2$ fragment.